

House Resolution 591

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86th, Benfield of the 85th, Henson of the 87th, Manning of the 32nd, Oliver of the 83rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 22, 2009, as "Georgia Water Day 2009" at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, "Coping with Water Scarcity" is the theme for the United Nations World Water
4 Day 2009, which is celebrated each year on the 22nd of March. The theme highlights the
5 significance of cooperation and importance of an integrated approach to water resource
6 management of water at both international and local levels; and

7 WHEREAS, this theme was decided among all members of the United Nations World Water
8 Week in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2006; and

9 WHEREAS, World Water Day in 2005 marked the start of a new United Nations
10 International Decade for Action on water. The Water for Life Decade 2005-2015 will give
11 a high profile to implementing water-related programs. This UN initiative will boost the
12 chances of achieving international water-related goals and the United Nations Millennium
13 Declaration; and

14 WHEREAS, the World Water Day observation focuses on water and poverty alleviation.
15 Water and sanitation are critical factors to alleviate poverty and hunger, for sustainable
16 development, for environmental integrity and for human health. The first water decade --
17 from 1981 to 1990 -- brought water to over a billion people and sanitation to almost 77
18 million; however, the job was only half done. There are still almost 1.1 billion people
19 without adequate access to water and 2.4 billion without adequate sanitation; and

20 WHEREAS, equity and rights, cultural and ethical issues are essential to be addressed when
21 dealing with limited water resources. Imbalances between availability and demand, the
22 degradation of groundwater and surface water quality, intersectoral competition,
23 interregional and international disputes, all center around the question of how to cope with
24 scarce water resources; and

25 WHEREAS, while we are a water rich state, it is essential that the State of Georgia become
26 aware of the national and international issues of water resource management and coping with
27 water scarcity.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body do hereby designate March 22, 2009, as "Georgia Water Day 2009"
30 at the state capitol to highlight the importance of water resource management in conjunction
31 with the annual United Nations World Water Day observation, and urge all citizens to
32 increase awareness of water conservation programs.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of Natural
35 Resources.